

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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Meeting Summary

April 15, 2011

Members Present – Gwendolyn Coates, Chair, Rose Floyd, Karen Kent, Marti Lindeman, Michael Lusk, Anthony Shoecraft, Helen Sikov, Jeannine Skinner

Members Excused: Cynthia Andrews, Rowena Rye

Guests: Sandria Woods-Pollard, HSD Staff; Debra Kinsey, HSD Staff; Charlotte John, AACCT Member; Edna M. Daige

Staff – Karen Winston

I. Approval of March Meeting Summary

The March retreat summary was approved as written.

II. Kinship Care Discussion

Sandria began by providing background information about the African American Child Care Task Force (AACHT). The Task Force began in 1990 to advocate, support and enhance the lives of African American children, both culturally and academically. Programs the task force supports provide services to children from birth to age 12.

Sandria explained how Gwendolyn and Karen approached the task force in February looking for a way to support kinship care providers (a.k.a. grandparents raising grandchildren). Gwendolyn gave three suggestions of how the two groups might work together: 1) Support the Annual Backpack Program; 2) Connect with South King County Pastors Group; 3) Support an activity that already exists.

Michael Lusk described the annual Juneteenth event sponsored by the Atlantic Street Center and suggested contacting Helen Sawyer, Kinship Care Navigator, about a possible collaboration. Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery. What is Juneteenth? The Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, but the news didn't reach Texas that the war had ended and all slaves were free, until two and a-half years later on June 19, 1865. The people of Texas held the very first celebration for that day of "Freedom" on June 19, 1865, which is now recognized as Juneteenth.

Next Steps – Gwendolyn referred further development of the collaboration to the Community Outreach & Education Committee, Michael Lusk, Chair. The committee will provide an update at the May meeting.

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III. Retreat Follow-up

Members provided the following comments about last month's retreat:

- I enjoyed getting to know each other.
- I liked the room.
- I like the energy and the discussion of goals.
- It was a good introduction to the MCAAE and a good opportunity to get to know members and feel included.
- I liked the structure of the meeting.
- It was better than last year. There was much more cohesiveness.

IV. MCAAE Recruitment

Gwendolyn reported that four individuals were interviewed before the meeting. Of the four, she recommended forwarding one applicant (Carolyn Johnson Davis) to the Mayor for appointment. A motion was made, seconded and approved (5 for/2 abstained).

Members asked to review the resumes of all four individuals who were interviewed. Karen W. will forward all information.

A discussion followed about desired skill sets members would like to have represented on the Council, including law, policy development, legislative, and health care. Everyone was asked to identify interested individuals and have them submit a letter of interest and current resume to Karen W.

Members also requested an opportunity to review all future resumes when submitted in order to assess preliminary information and determine if an applicant would be better suited for committee work prior to committing to a two year term.

Rose made a motion to incorporate all future interviews into the regular meetings as needed. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

V. Committee Reports

Education Committee (Michael, Chair, Jeannine, Helen, Rose)

- Michael reminded members that May 1st is Seniors Day at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Church, located at 19300 108th Ave. SE, Renton, WA. Service begins at 11:00 a.m. Gwendolyn will follow-up with information about the invitation.
- April 26th is the next meeting of the Black United Ministers for Change. Members discussed being visible and providing information about the MCAAE at the meeting and future church related events.
- The committee also discussed the desire to do more face-to-face community outreach.

Digital Communications Committee (Marti and Cynthia)

- Marti and Cynthia are working on updating the MCAAE website. At the retreat, Michael was asked to develop community resources for the website. Michael reported that he was limited in his search to find services specifically for African American elders in King County with the exception of the African American Elders Program (AAEP) and Senior Services.

VI. Old Business

Gwendolyn reported that there is currently \$185.00 in the checking account and \$25.13 in the saving account. The account is losing money due to \$11.00 monthly service charge. Gwendolyn recommended closing the account and transferring the funds to Key Bank. Members concurred. She and Karen W will coordinate the transfer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2011, in the SMT 60th Floor, Room 6030.